

Carnival royalty takes over Aruba

ORANJESTAD - Gorgeously gowned and costumed, Aruba's Carnival royalty were officially announced the rulers of Aruba for the coming weeks during a ritual performed at the Government building on Sunday morning. They will reign over Aruba until the carnival festivities are put to rest with a final "Burning of Momo" on the eve of Ash Wednesday.

Minister of Finance, Mike de Meza, representing Prime Minister Mike Eman, turned over "the keys of the city" to the elected Prinses and Panchos, official escorts of Aruba's reinas, the carnival queens.

Prins & Pancho are selected as a team, in three categories, Infantil, Hubenil and Grande (Child, Youth and Adult.) They win their crowns by demonstrating their penchant for original and topical humor, performing comedic sketches before a panel of judges and an audience often left weak by the hilarity.

Upon winning their titles, they then take command of various events, including the queen contests crowning the local beauties who will occupy special floats during the several parades to follow.

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Representing EPB/Champagne

Carmen Maduro crowned as Mrs. Carnival 56

ORANJESTAD – In a packed Aruba Entertainment Center, Aruba crowned its 16th Mrs. Carnival for Carnival 56.

With beautiful shows and a touch of elegance, 7 candidates competed for the Mrs. Carnival title.

At the end of the evening Carmen Maduro was chosen Mrs. Carnival 56.

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Carnival Events for this weekend

February 5
Concert Carnival Show
Down 2010

February 6
- Children Parade Noord
- Aruba Tivoli Lighting
Parade

February 7
Children Parade Oranjestad



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This year's Prins and Panchos are:

Infantil: Shawn Le Grand and Zenon Croes, "Prins Lap" and "Pancho Top."

Hubenil: Mike Montero and Joshua Geerman, "Prins Mira" and Pancho "Laga Para."

Grande: Jonathan Thiel and Maurice Maduro, "Prins Cambio" and "Pancho Dimes."

These spirited young men had the pleasure of singling out the various queens during their selection pageants, once the judges made their decision. Queens are chosen not only for their attractive appearance, but a lively speech and demeanor, enjoyable program, beautiful costumes and other qualities that embody the spirit of carnival. Aruba has a pageant wherein they select a candidate for the annual Miss Universe competition, but Aruba's Carnival Queen could be compared in stature to Miss America. She also has two junior counterparts. This year the crowns were won by:

Reina Infantil: Isalys Geerman of Kids group;

Reina Hubenil: Melounne J Petrochi of Youth Champagne group, Maribel Andrede of the



TOB group was selected as Aruba's Reina Grandi, a tradition installed with the very first organized and united carnival 56 years ago. Maribel also picked up the trophies for Best Show, Best Speech and Best Costume; usually a sure indicator of who will be crowned queen.

Aruba sports another

unique pageant among the islands, Mrs. Carnival, just to let the public know there no age limit on graciousness, beauty and carnival spirit. Elena Maduro of the Champagne group took the title yesterday evening, completing the stellar constellation of Aruba's Carnival royalty 2010. □



Aruba TODAY

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